



George
LeMieux
U.S. Senator *for* Florida

E- NEWSLETTER

April 27, 2010

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator. Thank you for subscribing to my weekly update - a brief summary of some of the more notable events during the last seven days. I hope you'll find this useful and informative. You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via [YouTube](#) , [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)



If you want to share this newsletter with a friend, sign them up today at <http://LeMieux.Senate.gov>

Upcoming Jobs Events

Since our office began hosting and promoting job fairs, more than 10,000 people have participated including 500 employers. I am pleased to note that through these events, more than 2,000 Floridians have found work. If you are seeking employment or opportunities to expand your business, please consider attending [one of our upcoming events](#).

Our office recently helped sponsor the Suncoast Career Expo at the Sarasota-Bradenton International Convention Center where 750 Floridians secured a job. In addition, our office sponsored a virtual job fair for the First Coast region where close to 800 people left with jobs. These job fairs have successfully put Floridians in touch with employers, as well as existing programs and groups dedicated to helping job seekers.

Upcoming job events:

[AARP-Work at 50 Campaign- Helping Experience Work Career Fair](#) -
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

[Palm Beach County Workforce Summit 2010](#) - Friday, May 7, 2010

[Job and Community Resource Fair](#) - Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Tightening Regulations on Wall Street

Irresponsible financial investments and transactions recently led our nation into the biggest financial crisis in decades. The solution is to review what went wrong and determine where to tighten regulations and what standards should be in place.

I believe Congress can prevent another crisis by ensuring investment firms keep a stake in the products they create, that mortgage underwriters keep a portion of the mortgages they produce on their books, and that bond credit ratings firms take responsibility for their role in the 2008 financial meltdown.

Above all, government must avoid putting taxpayers on the hook for another series of multi-billion dollar bailouts. Unfortunately, the bill expected to come before the Senate creates a \$50 billion bailout fund that automatically replenishes, indefinitely. Creating a bailout fund is a bad idea because it tells financial firms the government will bail them out, no matter how risky their actions.

C! lick on the video below to hear more about my views on financial regulatory reform.



Last week, I spoke with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Chairman Sheila Bair and we agree that real financial reform must address the lending industry's abuse of residential mortgage underwriting. We must never again allow our nation's credit markets become overloaded by bad home loans, and we must ensure that lenders are prevented from writing mortgages without sufficient interest in the borrower's ability to repay the loan.

Emerging Threats: Iran's Influence in Latin America

One of the fundamental responsibilities of our federal government is to keep our nation safe and free. As the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee's Emerging Threats subcommittee, I believe our government must remain vigilant on all fronts to evaluate potential threats and act accordingly.

Recently, the Pentagon released a report highlighting Iran's efforts to increase paramilitary force operations in Venezuela. This report states Iran's forces have known links to terrorists in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, North Africa and Latin America.

During a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing last week, I urged officials from the President's administration to intensify their focus on Iran's paramilitary activities in the Western Hemisphere, specifically Iran's increased cooperation with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Click on the video below to hear my comments.



We know there are growing alliances between Caracas and Tehran. We also know that Hezbollah and Hamas have established camps in Latin America. Now we find out Iran is increasing its paramilitary presence in Venezuela. This underscores the need for this administration and our Defense Department to remain vigilant in monitoring threats that may emanate from the South.

Improving Public Education by Mentoring Our Teachers

Our future is in the hands of our children and we must ensure they have access to the best possible education to prepare them for the challenges ahead. Part of that effort includes making certain our schools are filled with qualified professionals and that we accurately measure student progress.

To improve classroom education, I have joined with Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) to develop a professional mentoring program for teachers and school administrators. Life-long learning should be part of every teacher's career. This will benefit teachers and students, and help retain the best professionals within our schools.

Studies have found that frequent, sustained professional development that is regularly evaluated for its impact on student learning increases the overall quality of an education. By improving teacher quality and increasing the accountability of administrators, we ensure our students have access to quality learning.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this bipartisan bill.

Balancing the Federal Budget

Right now, the federal government only takes in enough tax revenue to cover its entitlement obligations including Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Every other government operation is funded by borrowed money. That fact is as shocking as it is problematic for our country's future prosperity.

Last week, the Florida Legislature joined 19 other states in calling for action on a federal balanced budget amendment. I commend the Legislature for recognizing Washington's out-of-control spending and seeing the need for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Last December, I proposed an amendment to the Constitution requiring Congress to produce an annual balanced budget and granting the President the authority to exercise a line-item veto. Click the video below to hear the details of my proposal.



National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Last Thursday, I had the pleasure of bringing my 6-year-old son Max to work, as part of the annual "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day."



The day is a great opportunity to give our children a better understanding of the work we do from day to day. Regardless of the career, this kind of activity provides an enriching educational experience for our children to learn about the possibilities available and what career they might pursue. It gives me great pride to have my son by my side and I look forward to sharing a similar experience with my other children, Taylor, Chase, and Madeleine in the years to come.

Max is the eldest of our four children, including 4-year-old Taylor, 2-year-old Chase, and 1-month-old Madeleine.

Casework Corner

One of my primary goals is to make sure Floridians are well served by Federal agencies. From time to time, I will share accounts of how our office has helped a Floridian.

Recently our office received a call from a constituent asking for assistance in regard to Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits. The constituent had been dropped from her drug plan by accident and was not able to re-enroll during the open enrollment period due to her hospitalization. Without prescription drug coverage, the constituent's doctor would not place her on a lung transplant list to treat her severe lung condition.

A caseworker from our office contacted CMS to inquire as to why the constituent had been dropped by her drug plan. Upon reviewing the matter, CMS contacted our office to discuss a re-enrollment exemption. Our office caseworker contacted the constituent to notify her of the exemption and assist in the Part D re-enrollment process. The constituent is now eligible to be put on a lung

transplant list.

If you are experiencing a problem with a federal agency, please contact our Orlando Regional Office by calling (407) 254-2573 to speak with a member of the Casework Department. The toll-free number for Florida residents is (866) 630-7106. To find out more about how my office can help you, go to my website at <http://lemieux.senate.gov> or stop by one of our scheduled Community Office Hours in your area.

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